

Title: 04 WEEK FOUR - Arrest

Matthew 26.47-55

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One of history's greatest lessons is that once the state embraces a religion, the nature of that religion changes radically. It loses its nonviolent component and becomes a force for war rather than peace. - Mark Kurlansky, *Nonviolence*, p 25

... I have to live with the meaning of my commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ. To me, the relationship of this ministry to the making of peace is so obvious that I sometimes marvel at those who ask me why I am speaking against the [Vietnam] war. Could it be that they do not know that the Good News was meant for all men - for communist and capitalist, for their children and ours, for black and for white, for revolutionary and conservative? Have they forgotten that my ministry is in obedience to the One who loved his enemies so fully that he died for them? What then can I say to the Vietcong or to Castro or to Mao as a faithful minister of this One? Can I threaten them with death or must I not share with them my life? I share with all men the calling to be a son of the living God. Beyond the calling of race or nation or creed is this vocation of sonship and brotherhood. - Martin Luther King, Jr., "Beyond Vietnam", April 4, 1967

Some Christians think armed action against Jesus' enemies is more effective for God's will and for people's liberation than are "pious" Gethsemane prayers. - Frederick Dale Bruner, *Matthew: A Commentary*, p 668